St. Louis Police Identify Brown's 3

Samuel Petty, 23, one of three men arrested with H. Rap Brown in New York Saturday, was identified by St. Louis police yesterday as a one-time bodyguard of Brown.

Petty and the other two men, Levi Valentine, 24, and Arhtur Young, 25, were associated with the Black Liberators, a defunct militant St. Louis group, police said. All three men apparently left St. Louis in the fall of 1970, police said.

Brown and the three other men were arrested by New York police early Saturday after a holdup and gun battle with police. Brown, 28, was shot in the abdomen and was reported in fair condition yesterday at Roosevelt Hospital.

Brown, a long-sought black militant fugitive, dropped out of sight 17 months ago after two associates were killed in Bel Air, Md., when their car blew up on the eve of Brown's scheduled trial there on charges of arson and inciting to riot.

Police have accused Brown and the three men arrested with him in New York of holding up a West Side bar. Two New York policemen were wounded in the shooting that followed. New York police have charged all four arrested men with attempted murder, robbery, and possession of a dangerous weapon.

Companions

Brown apparently is disputing the police identification. Hospital officials said he is giving his name as Roy Williams.

William M. Kunstler, Brown's attorney, after viewing the man identified as Brown from about 20 feet, said Saturday that he was not sure the shootout victim was really H. Rap Brown. But a source close to the Brown family said yesterday that Brown's relatives are now certain that the man being held is in fact Brown.

Brown's wife, Lynne, and his brother and sister visited him at the hospital Saturday night, but refused to comment on his identification. None of Brown's relatives had returned to the hospital as of early yesterday evening.

St. Louis police described Petty as "very active" in the Liberators and said he was a close associate of Charles Koen, leader of the militant United Front, which operates in the racially tense town of Cairo, Ill., about 125 miles south of St. Louis.

2 Called 'Hangers On'

They described the other two men, Valentine and Young, as "hangers on" in the Liberators group, which disbanded about two years ago.

When the Liberators disbanded, some of the members joined Koen's group in Cairo, police said. Racial tension in Cairo has flared into gun battles on numerous occasions. In May, 1970, Petty was indicted by a federal grand jury in St. Louis on charges of violating two sections of the federal firearms law. The charge is pending against Petty, and it was not clear yesterday whether he had fled prosecution.

When Petty was indicted, the U.S. attorney in St. Louis, Daniel Bartlett, identified him as a former bodyguard of Brown, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Associated Press reported that in 1968 the Liberators formed an alliance with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee when it was headed by Brown. Brown, AP said, was named general of human justice in the Liberators as a gesture of unity.

Valentine, who sometimes used the first name Levira, and who went by the "street name" of El Rico, was charged with being absent without official leave from the military in 1969, the Globe-Democrat said. He was arrested 17 times in St. Louis, on charges that included murder and armed robbery, according to the Globe-Democrat.

Young has a record of 11 arrests in St. Louis, the Globe-Democrat said, including auto theft, narcotis, gambling, and assaulting a police officer.

Companion Talks

In New York, police said the first clue to the identification of Brown came when one of the other three suspects informed them that the wounded suspect was Brown.

Police said they then fingerprinted the suspect and checked the fingerprints first against prints in their own files and then against FBI prints of all 10 fingers. Positive identification was made by 1 p.m. Saturday, police said.

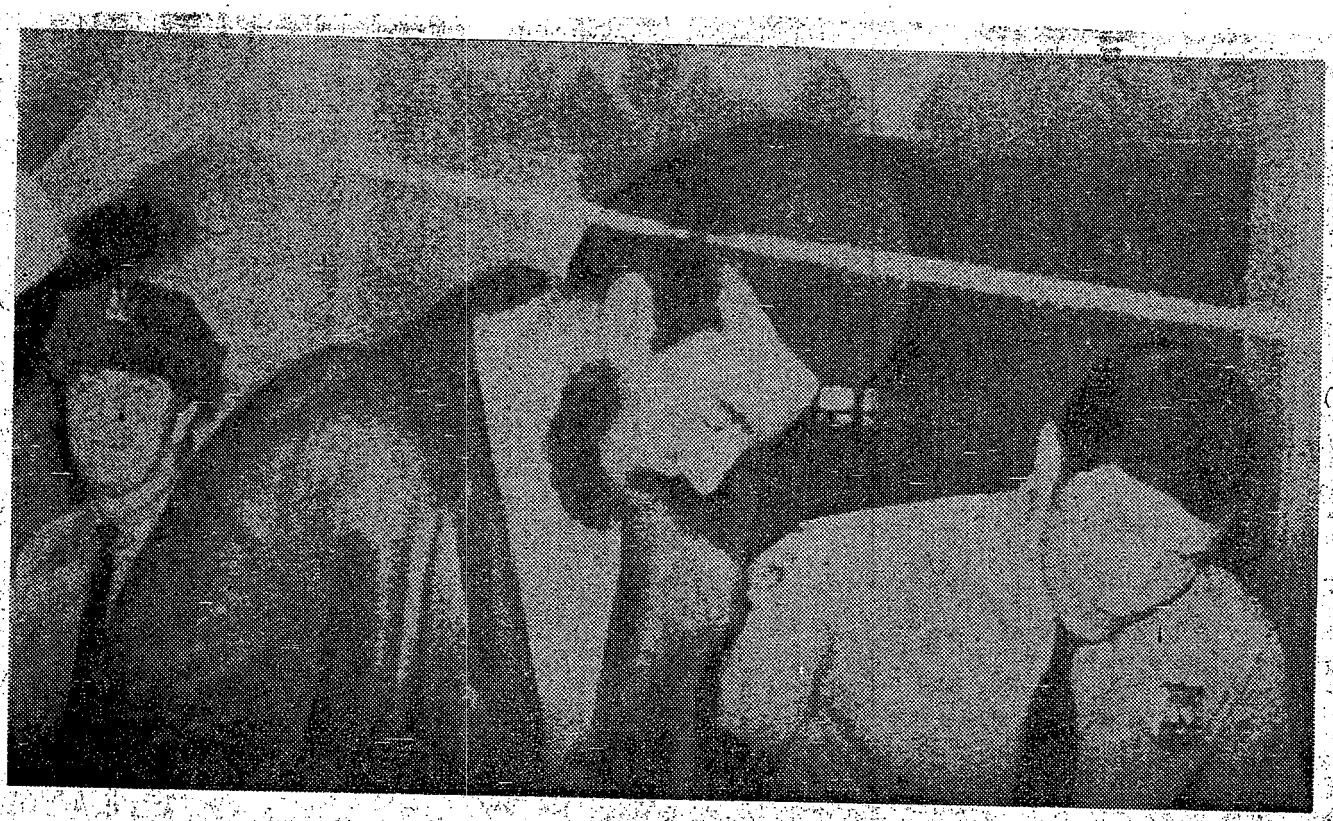
Yesterday, there were guards at all entrances to Roosevelt Hospital and at least eight policemen in front of the entrance to the recovery room where Brown lay.

"I don't know whether you'd call it heavy guard, but it's heavy for us," a hospital administrator said. She added, "It's nothing like the guard when we had (Joseph) Columbo here."

Nine floors above Brown in Roosevelt lay Gary Hunt, 21, one of the two policemen wounded in the shootout. The other policeman was released Saturday.

Hunt, now in satisfactory condition, was visited by Mayor John V. Lindsay, who afterward told a UPI reporter, "Thank God the brave officer is well and is recuperating." Lindsay did not visit Brown and would not comment regarding Brown.

This story was written by staff writer Edward Walsh from reports filed by staff writer Bob Woodward and Jim Mann in New York and staff writer Ivan G. Goldman in Washington.



Associated Press

A man identified by police as H. Rap Brown (left) is taken to a police car after a shootout in a New York bar.